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news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PBS Western Reserve to Launch Native American Television Channel

Kent, Ohio—Feb. 20, 2020—PBS Western Reserve (WNEO / WEAO) will launch a new digital television channel that carries Native American programming. FNX (First Nations Experience) will broadcast on WNEO Channel 45.3 and WEAO Channel 49.3 beginning Sunday, March 1, 2020. It replaces the organization's MHz Worldview channel, which will no longer be available to public television stations after Saturday, Feb. 29.

FNX features Native content from tribes across the United States and also includes programming that directly connects with a vast minority and immigrant population. Programming includes indigenous stories from tip to tip of the Americas, including the Latino community who identify with Nahuatl and Mayan cultures. Beyond that the station includes content from indigenous communities in New Zealand (Maori), Australia, Japan (Ainu), Sweden and Finland (Sami), Africa, the Middle East and more. FNX carries feature films, short films, documentaries, cooking shows, children's programming, cultural content, comedy series and more.

"We are excited for the opportunity to be the only station in Ohio and only one of a few stations in the Midwest to offer FNX," said Trina Cutter, president and CEO of PBS Western Reserve. "The total population of Native Americans in Ohio is small, but six of the 10 Ohio cities with the largest population of Native Americans are located in our broadcast coverage reach. This is truly the definition of serving an underserved audience, plus it is an opportunity to bring rich cultural diversity to our content for the benefit of all of our viewers."

FNX is a partnership of the San Manuel band of Mission Indians and public station KVCR in San Bernardino, Calif. Cable providers in Northeast Ohio that carry WNEO 45.3 and WEAO 49.3 include Armstrong Cable (Channel 98), MCTV (Channel 85) and Spectrum Cable (Channel 994). For more information, visit pbswesternreserve.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

About PBS Western Reserve

PBS Western Reserve is the brand name of Northeastern Educational Television of Ohio, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

A trusted community resource, PBS Western Reserve uses the power of commercial-free television and related services to enrich the lives of people through high-quality programming and educational services that teach, illuminate and inspire. It serves the largest population of Ohio's eight PBS member stations.

PBS Western Reserve (WNEO 45.1 / WEAO 49.1), a service of the organization, is the only broadcast television service that reaches all of Northeast Ohio. It is available to 4.9 million people in the Cleveland and Youngstown designated market areas. In an average month, more than 1 million people tune in. The organization also operates two standard definition channels: Fusion (WNEO 45.2 / WEAO 49.2) and FNX (WNEO 45.3 / WEAO 49.3).

For more information about the organization, visit www.PBSWesternReserve.org or call 1-800-554-4549.

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